

Rural Landscape: the Italian law experience

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ABSTRACT: The paper means to supply the reader with a short picture of the modern legal concept of landscape (separate from the concept of environment), which regards it as a cultural asset further to the notion created by international rules and accepted in Italy with the Code of cultural assets and landscape. The paper then proceeds with the assessment of agrarian landscape in the light of such regime, of agrarian rules and of developing search prospects.

1. The Landscape: a multidisciplinary approach

Landscape is a complex subject which demands a multidisciplinary approach involving legal experts, biologists, agronomists and architects: the synergy of knowledge is an essential instrument to appreciate its continuous transformations, to analyze previously adopted measures of landscape policy and to put forward new instruments of protection and improvement. A multidisciplinary approach is an indispensable tool also in order to understand the connections among landscape, environment and agriculture.

It is difficult to catch, by just casting a glance at it, the complexity and the facets of landscape: the lack of an interdisciplinary approach risks creating divergent languages. The ancient apologue of the six blind men comes to mind: facing an elephant each gropes for a part and reaches an individual conclusion: «it is a wall» (the sides), it is a snake» (the trunk), «it is a tree» (the legs), «it is a fan» (the ears), «it is a rope» (the tail), «it is a sword» (the tusks); each takes a part for the whole and there is no exchange of information.

2. Landscape and environment

Two terms, «landscape» and «environment», are often erroneously construed as synonyms in everyday language, actually they have different legal meanings and are subject to different regimes. Landscape and environment in Italy are subjected to divergent legal regimes. Environment: act no 152 of 3d April 2006 «rules on environment» and subsequent amendments (code of environment); procedures of environmental appraisal; protection of soil; dumping; water resources; waste; decontamination of polluted sites; air pollution; environmental damages. Landscape: act no 42 of 22th January 2004 «*Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape*» and subsequent amendments "*cultural heritage landscape and landscape assets*". Therefore the term environment concerns legally : the whole of natural not easily reproducible resources (air, water, soil, biodiversity, atmosphere), whose protection is linked to several interests, the first of which is the right to health. The legal meaning of the term landscape has undergone an evolution over time: initially identified with assets or sets of assets having aesthetic features (Act 1497/1939), then identified with environment (Act n. 431/1985), to its consideration as cultural heritage, being the result of the synergy between nature and man's work.

3.The Landscape as cultural heritage in the International Law

The consideration of landscape as cultural heritage is the result of international rules. Cultural landscapes were for the first time examined in the context of the World Heritage Convention (1972) Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by The General Conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, on 16 th November 1972. In December 1992, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged that cultural landscapes represent the "combined works of nature and of man" designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal. So the World Heritage Committee recognised 'cultural landscapes' as a category of site within the Convention's Operational Guidelines in bringing nature and culture closer together in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and adopted guidelines concerning their inclusion in the World Heritage List.

Subsequently many cultural landscapes had been officially recognised and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.

The most important International Convention relating to Landscape is the European Landscape Convention, an international treaty signed in Florence (Italy) on 20th October 2000, on the

basis of a proposal formulated by the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities with the aim of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning, and encouraging European co-operation in this area. In Italy the European Landscape Convention has been ratified by Act no 14 of 9 January 2006 «*Ratification and implementation of the European Landscape Convention, signed in Florence on 20 October 2000*». The European Landscape Convention recognizes the importance of landscape under different points of view: the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity; the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone; the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning.

The aims of European Landscape Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, to organize European co-operation on landscape issues, to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. The European Landscape Convention affords a new concept of landscape. Under the Convention the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognized as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. The Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas.

Under the European Landscape Convention "Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

The European Landscape Convention affords a new dynamic concept of landscape and recognizes that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes.

The European Landscape Convention points out the role of people in the concept of landscape: It's necessary to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes. Each Party undertakes to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies. The European Landscape Convention requests to the Parties to recognize landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity; establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific

measures set out in the European Landscape Convention; "landscape protection" which means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity; "landscape management" which means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonize changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes; "landscape planning" which means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes; integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape. The European Landscape Convention requests to the Parties with the active participation of the people and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes: to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory; to analyze their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them; to take note of changes; to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned. The European Landscape Convention requests to the Parties to define landscape quality objective for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance. "Landscape quality objective" means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings.

4. *The landscape as cultural heritage in Italian law*

Act no 42 of 22 January 2004 «*Code of cultural heritage and landscape*», pursuant to section 10 of Act no 45 of 24 February 2004», recognizes the cultural nature of the landscape; it is evident in several articles: "*cultural heritage is constituted of cultural assets and landscape*" (art.2); protection of landscape means recognizing, *safeing, and recovering the cultural value of landscape*; enhance landscape *contributes to the development of culture*. The Italian Code of Cultural Goods and Landscape contains the legal definition of landscape which is quite different from the definition made by the European Convention on Landscape because it seems not to involve people in the creation and management of landscape: "Landscape" means an area which is expression of identity and whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors.

The instruments adopted by the Code to conserve and value Italian landscape are the landscape constraint (authorisations and penalties) and the landscape plan. The Code identifies three categories of assets subject to landscape constraint: individual assets or sets where the constraint arises from administrative measures (such as areas of outstanding beauty, villas, or buildings which are considered valuable by a cultural point of view as sign of history, tradition, peculiar connection between people and nature); categories of assets where the constraint arises from the law (such as woods, lakes, mountains, protected areas); assets and areas

subject to constraint set by landscape plan. The landscape constraint implies for the relevant owner: the prohibition to destroy the asset; the obligation to apply for prior landscape authorization for actions changing the outward appearance of the asset; the application of criminal and administrative penalties in case of actions carried out in the lack of prior landscape authorization or in breach of its terms. The Italian code provides three different procedures of landscape authorization: the general procedure (Art. 146); a list of actions which are exempted from prior landscape authorization as agricultural activities (artt. 142 e 149, d.P.R. 13th February 2017, n. 31); a simple procedure for a list of less relevant actions on the asset Art. 146, 9° comma, d.P.R. 9th July 2010, n. 139.; d.P.R. 13th February 2017, n. 31). The landscape plan, prepared by regions and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, splits each region's territory in landscape zones: for each zone identifies existing landscape assets and may identify new ones; for each zone sets out provisions for the use of landscape assets and targets of landscape quality. The landscape plan prevails on all planning instruments adopted by sub regional local boards Italian. Constitutional Court has often confirmed the supremacy of landscape plan and has justified it because landscape is an absolute value which prevails on other interests (Judgments : 7th November 2007, n. 367 – 10th March 2010, n.101). At the moment, in Italy only few Regions have definitively approved (with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism) landscape plans because the procedure of approval is very long and complex: Puglia Region, on 16th February 2015; Tuscany Region, on 27th March 2015, Piedmont Region, on 3d October 2017.

5. Connections between environment and landscape within the new concept of landscape as cultural heritage

Under an ontological aspect certain assets have both environmental and landscape values. For example by law woods are landscape assets; but by law woods are also environmental assets, relating to their role in the protection of natural resources, improvement of environment, increase of biodiversity, improvement of carbon cycle, fight against weather changes. In the same way the monumental trees are protected by the law as trees having naturalistic value or as trees linked to local history or traditions. It's possible to find connections between environment and landscape within the new concept of landscape as cultural heritage by functional aspect: actions for the protection of landscape may benefit the environment and vice versa. For instance, the preservation and the recovery of terracing have not only landscape-related values, but also environmental-related values as instruments for the protection of land.

6. Agricultural landscapes as cultural landscapes

Which are the possible connections between landscape and agriculture under Italian law¹? A very important geographer wrote in a book which represents the milestone of the Italian studies on agricultural landscape «*Agricultural landscape is the form that the farmer gives to natural landscape in order to his agricultural activities*».² The agricultural landscape is a paradigm of the cultural, dynamic and participated concept of landscape adopted by the European Landscape Convention because it discloses a constant dialogue between economy, culture, tradition, architecture, nature³. In a few cases the cultural value of agricultural landscapes has been recognized by Unesco. A few Italian agricultural landscapes are included in the list of Unesco's sites as cultural landscapes: 1) the landscape of Val d'Orcia, which is part of the agricultural hinterland of Siena, redrawn and developed when it was integrated in the territory of the city-state in the 14th and 15th centuries to reflect an idealized model of good governance and to create an aesthetically pleasing picture. These are the criteria adopted as the Justification for Inscription: "*The Val d'Orcia is an exceptional reflection of the way the landscape was re-written in Renaissance times to reflect the ideals of good governance and to create an aesthetically pleasing pictures. The landscape of the Val d'Orcia was celebrated by painters from the Siennese School, which flourished during the Renaissance. Images of the Val d'Orcia, and particularly depictions of landscapes where people are depicted as living in harmony with nature, have come to be seen as icons of the Renaissance and have profoundly influenced the development of landscape thinking. The landscape's distinctive aesthetics, flat chalk plains out of which rise almost conical hills with fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Their images have come to exemplify the beauty of well-managed Renaissance agricultural landscapes*". The inscription covers: an agrarian and pastoral landscape reflecting innovative land-management systems; towns and villages; farmhouses; and the Roman Via Francigena and its associated abbeys, inns, shrines, bridges, etc. 2) Another Italian agricultural landscape included in the list of Unesco's sites as cultural landscape is Pantelleria's tree shaped grapevine grown in terracing which became Unesco Heritage in 2014). These are the criteria adopted as the Justification for Inscription "*The island of Pantelleria lies between Sicily and Africa; its agriculture suits its environmental limitations: strong winds, lack of unsalted waters, lack of plain land. Grapevine is grown in basins where rainy water accrues and bunches of grapes are protected from winds. A unique landscape is so created; at the same time excellent agricultural productions are obtained such as Moscato and Passito di Pantelleria DOC: Capers and olive trees are grown in terracing*"

¹ Nicoletta Ferrucci, *La tutela del paesaggio e il paesaggio agrario*, in L.Costato, A.Germanò, E. Rook Basile (a cura di), *Trattato di Diritto agrario*, vol.II, *Il diritto agroambientale*, Torino, 2011; Ead., *Il paesaggio agrario tra Convenzione europea del paesaggio, Codice Urbani e normativa agraristica*, in *Diritto e giurisprudenza agraria, alimentare e dell'ambiente*, 2011.

² Emilio Sereni, *Storia del paesaggio agrario*, Bari, Ed. Laterza, 1961.

³ Nicoletta Ferrucci, *Assonanze e dissonanze del Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio rispetto alla Convenzione Europea del Paesaggio: il caso del paesaggio agrario*, in *Per un paesaggio di qualità. Dialogo su inadempienze e ritardi nell'attuazione della Convenzione Europea*, a cura di Annalisa Calcagno Maniglio, Milano, Franco Angeli, 2015, p. 117.

3) Cinque Terre and the Amalfi Coast: The Ligurian coast between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural landscape of great scenic and cultural value. The layout and disposition of the small towns and the shaping of the surrounding landscape, overcoming the disadvantages of a steep, uneven terrain, encapsulate Justification for Inscription. The Committee decided to inscribe this site on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), considering that the eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community. the continuous history of human settlement in this region over the past millennium.

4) Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont, Langhe-Roero and Monferrato: this landscape covers five distinct wine-growing areas with outstanding landscapes and the Castle of Cavour, an emblematic name both in the development of vineyards and in Italian history. It is located in the southern part of Piedmont, between the Po River and the Ligurian Apennines, and encompasses the whole range of technical and economic processes relating to the winegrowing and winemaking that has characterized the region for centuries. Vine pollen has been found in the area dating from the 5th century BC, when Piedmont was a place of contact and trade between the Etruscans and the Celts; Etruscan and Celtic words, particularly wine-related ones, are still found in the local dialect. During the Roman Empire, Pliny the Elder mentions the Piedmont region as being one of the most favourable for growing vines in ancient Italy; Strabo mentions its barrels. These are the criteria which justified the inscription: the cultural landscapes of the Piedmont vineyards provide outstanding living testimony to winegrowing and winemaking traditions that stem from a long history, and that have been continuously improved and adapted up to the present day. They bear witness to an extremely comprehensive social, rural and urban realm, and to sustainable economic structures. They include a multitude of harmonious built elements that bear witness to its history and its professional practices. The vineyard landscapes of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato in Piedmont consist of a selection of five distinct winegrowing areas and a castle, whose names evoke profound and ancient expertise in the relationship between man and his environment. They reflect a slowly developed association between a diverse range of soils, grape varieties that are often native, and suitable winemaking processes. They offer panoramas of carefully cultivated hillsides, following ancient land divisions punctuated with buildings that lend structure to the visual space: hilltop villages, castles, Romanesque churches, farms, ciabots, cellars and storehouses for cellaring and for the commercial distribution of the wine in the small towns and larger towns on the margins of the vineyards. The serial property is outstanding for its harmony, and the balance between the aesthetic qualities of its landscapes, the architectural and historical diversity of the built elements associated with the wine production activities and an authentic and ancient art of winemaking.

The vineyards of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato constitute an outstanding example of man's interaction with his natural environment. Following a long and slow evolution of winegrowing expertise, the best possible adaptation of grape varieties to land with specific soil and climatic components has been carried out, which in itself is related to winemaking expertise, thereby becoming an international benchmark. The winegrowing landscape also expresses great aesthetic qualities, making it into an archetype of European vineyards.

Agricultural landscape on the light of European landscape Convention

The agricultural landscape is a paradigm of the participated concept of landscape adopted by the European Landscape Convention. Agriculture draws the agricultural landscape in its most traditional forms and in its newest forms, from urban vegetable gardens up to periurban agriculture, mitigating buffer of urban sprawl, which draws a new relationship between town and countryside, defined by Pierre Donadieu, who devoted important works to this issue⁴, using an apparent oxymoron: "*urban countryside*". The farmer is in the meantime producer of food which feeds the planet and creator and active keeper of agricultural landscape. The farmer's mark on nature is revealed by the drawing of the fields under cultivation as well as by the forms of rural architecture, a peculiar marriage between architectural rules and practical aspects of agriculture: from dry walls marking borders or terracing, to small bridges, little towers, hydraulic works, to buildings earmarked for the exercise of farming or as living spaces of the farmer and his family. The agricultural landscape is also a paradigm of the dynamic concept of landscape adopted by the European Landscape Convention: agricultural landscape is dynamic and changeable; it is created by farmers on the basis of the necessity to comply with current specific technical and economic needs, the evolution of agrarian agreements, the choices of European and National lawmaking policies which over time have steered agricultural activity, rather than on the basis of aesthetical criteria: from monoculture to more traditional forms of agricultural production. In Italy the connection is studied extensively by economists, agronomists, biologists, legal experts; it is monitored by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies. The connection between landscape and agriculture is highlighted in the National Catalogue of Historical Rural Landscapes: the text shows the result of a search promoted by the Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies in cooperation with 14 Italian universities and a few international research entities. Many (123) landscapes from all Italian regions were identified and described in schedules setting out their historical value, typical products and risks threatening their integrity, also setting out proposal for their improvement. Their descriptions goes along with essays explaining data collected, evolution

⁴ Pierre Donadieu, *Campagne urbane. Una nuova proposta di paesaggio*, traduzione a cura di M.V. Mininni, Roma, Donzelli Editore, 2006

trends and features of the Italian rural landscape, also considering historical, environmental and economic aspects.

7. Agricultural landscape on the light of Italian Agrarian Law

The importance of the connection between agriculture and landscape starts hesitantly to gain some way in Italian agrarian law. Provisions protecting certain productions help at the same time preserve a certain landscape. For example the growing of spelt (a peculiar kind of cereals), typical of a few areas in Garfagnana (Lucca, Tuscany), grown from ages in small plots of land, was about to be abandoned, with ensuing abandonment of agriculture in the land earmarked for such growing. In 1996 the European recognition as protected geographical indications (PGI)⁵ was obtained: market request went up; currently farmers grow spelt over about 200 hectares of previously abandoned land.

Regional Laws regulate « *Oil or wine roads* », peculiar wine or oil trails which guide the tourist through the local wine or oil areas and their seasonal wine-oil growing and wine-oil making activities: that peculiar form of cultural and economic marketing enhance traditional agricultural productions and agricultural landscape.

Italian agricultural law enhances rural architecture as an important sign of agricultural landscape: in this direction the law protects and attaches great value to traditional forms of rural architecture⁶.

In certain cases the use of peculiar forms of rural architecture is imposed by the regulation on the production of a protected designations of origin (PDO)⁷: reference is to "Lunigiana Chestnut Flour" (PDO), whose regulation provides for the use of mills endowed with stony wheels for the grinding of chestnuts. Such mills are a key feature of the area's rural architecture and allow for a slow and continuous grinding of chestnuts, without overheating, so producing velvet-like flour to touch, delicate to taste. The connection between agriculture and

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs: article 5 Requirements for designations of origin and geographical indications For the purpose of this Regulation: 'geographical indication' is a name which identifies a product: (a) originating in a specific place, region or country (b) whose given quality, reputation or other characteristic is essentially attributable to its geographical origin (c) at least one of the production steps of which take place in the defined geographical area.

⁶ See Act 24 December 2003, no 378 "Provisions for the protection and improvement of rural architecture"; Decree of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities dated 6 October 2005 «Identification of the types of rural architecture existing in Italy and definition of technical-scientific criteria for actions to be implemented, pursuant to Act no 378 of 24 December 2003, setting out rules for the protection and improvement of rural architecture»; Directive of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities dated 30 October 2008 "Actions for the protection and improvement of rural architecture".

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs article 5 requirements for designations of origin and geographical indications. For the purpose of this Regulation, 'designation of origin' is a name which identifies a product: (a) originating in a specific place, region or, in exceptional cases, a country (b) whose quality or characteristics are essentially or exclusively due to a particular geographical environment with its inherent natural and human factors (c) the production steps of which all take place in the defined geographical area

landscape is highlighted also by national provisions on «agriturismo»⁸, and by regional laws regulating the subject. Act 96/2006 “*Legal regime of agriturismo*” defines «agriturismo» as the accommodating activity managed by agricultural entrepreneurs in connection with their farming activity: and so it highlights its multifunctional role as to both protection of agricultural production and improvement of landscape. The law broadens the notion of activities falling within «agriturismo» to include recreational, cultural, educational, sports, excursion-related and tourism on horse-related activities aiming at the improvement of the territory and the rural heritage. The law provides for products to be offered to guests by entrepreneurs involved in «agriturismo» to be not just products of their own business but rather also products from other agricultural businesses in the area. The law defines «agriturismo» as conducive to the recovery of the rural building heritage to be used for the purpose of exercising «agriturismo» while complying with typological and architectural features, as well as with landscape and environmental features of the areas concerned.

8. The agrarian landscape in the light of Italian Code of cultural heritage and landscape

In the light of the Code of cultural heritage and landscape the image of the farmer as the feeder of the planet and active custodian of landscape is rather declining. The agrarian landscape is a typical example of Italian law progressively diverging from the guidelines set out in the European Landscape Convention. By breaking with the guidelines included in the European Landscape Convention, which provide for the adoption of different landscape-related policies according to the different types of landscape, the National law ignores the peculiarity of agrarian landscape and submits it to the general regime as to restrictions and planning. Italian law has a stereotyped view of agrarian landscape, still in its immobility. The Accademia dei Georgofili has since long highlighted the negative effects deriving from the application to agricultural areas of landscape plans forcing farmers to preserve a prototype of agrarian landscape that planners want to preserve and improve. A wicked mechanism is so put in place whereby farmers are forced to preserve – for the common interest – the agrarian landscape, i.e. a cultural asset or a common asset as the Constitutional Court qualified it on several occasions at the same time they do not receive, directly or indirectly, any benefit from the production or the preservation of that asset. The lack of income margins leads unavoidably to the abandonment of agriculture, which in turn leads to the loss by that landscape of the value that inspired its preservation. The abandonment of farming has as its consequence the increase of uncultivated wood and hence the destruction of agrarian landscape. The abandonment of farming has negative consequences also with respect to the environment (hydrogeological instability, loss of biodiversity).

⁸ see Act 96 of 20 February 2006 on the «Legal regime of agriturismo»

9. *The future perspectives*

The protection and the preservation of agrarian landscape within landscape planning must go together with the adoption of measures to preserve a productive agriculture⁹. It is absolutely necessary to provide, along with the obligation to preserve the typical features of agrarian landscape, such as olive groves and terracing, the granting of financial incentives or, in any event, economic benefits to farmers who take back their traditional role as custodians of landscape within the context of multifunctional agriculture, hence not just as manufacturers of goods but also as providers of services.

In turn the landscape plan should involve farmers to a greater extent whenever it deals with agrarian landscape, of which farmers are the makers using as Ariadne's thread the principle of participation so vigorously affirmed in the European Landscape Convention. The regional planning law of Tuscany no 65 dated 10 November 2014 setting out «*Provisions for managing the region's territory*» is enlightened: Section 69 provides that instruments of territorial planning and instruments of municipal planning are not allowed to set out rules about farms' possibly long-term agronomic-cultivation choices; the identification by planning instruments of landscape-related aspects to be preserved and whose reproduction is to be promoted is confined to historical town centers (section 66).

From another point of view the plan should seek and identify new areas to be reserved to agriculture in the light of the vital role which it plays for mankind's survival, as to both food and environment, and also in the light of the disconcerting size now reached by the consumption of agricultural land the urban sprawl, the human pressure on agricultural areas in plains, the wild spreading of buildings for living and working purposes, waterproof agricultural land of the size of Berlin annually (EU Commission's data). It is necessary to give up the traditional approach of restrictions and planning without participation to this end I have recently set up a team of experts with different backgrounds who have taken up the challenge to seek elsewhere instruments suitable to re-create the key image of agriculture being at the same time both producer of food and maker and active custodian of landscape. The range of instruments we are investigating reaches from the connection between landscape planning and rural development plans to the search of operational instruments for integrated planning forms of marketing of agricultural and food products; the application to agriculture of new harmonized models of landscape management, contracts, covenants up to the identification of measures suitable to turn into tax leverage.

On the path to finding a renewed harmony with the principles of the European Landscape Convention we submitted the initial results of our work to a conference held at Expo, Milan, within the Expo Days of the Padua University (2015).

⁹ FRANCO SCARAMUZZI, *L'olivo nel paesaggio agrario*, in *Olivi di Toscana – Firenze, 2012*

There is still a long way to go though vis-à-vis the complex nature of issues we intend to tackle; a long and difficult way ahead, necessary condition to guarantee the productive preservation of our landscape and the protection of the environment.

